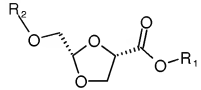
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula I:



I

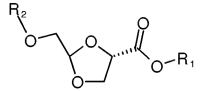
wherein

R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl, and

R_2 is ~~a hydroxyl protecting group~~ CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl;

said process comprising:

a) subjecting a compound of formula II:



II

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of Pig Liver Esterase enzyme or Porcine Pancreatic Lipase enzyme;

b) recovering said compound of formula I.

2. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is CO-C_{1-6} alkyl~~, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl~~.

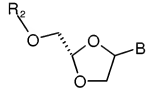
4. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

5. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Pig Liver Esterase.

6. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Porcine Pancreatic Lipase.

7. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising:

a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula I to produce a compound of formula V:

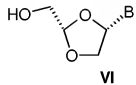


V

wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

b) removing the group R_2 of said compound of formula V; and

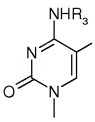
c) recovering a compound of formula VI:

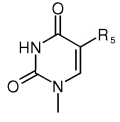


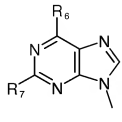
VI

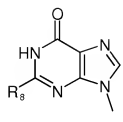
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 7, wherein B is:



;


;


or


;

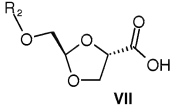
R_3 is H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ acyl, or CO-R_9;

R_9 is H or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and

R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl, or $C_{3\text{-}6}$ cycloalkylamino.

9. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of recovering a compound of formula VII:

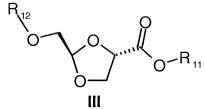


VII .

10. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl and R_2 is CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryl.

11. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is benzoyl.

12. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula III:



III

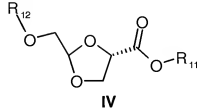
wherein

R_{11} is $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl, $C_{2\text{-}12}$ alkenyl, $C_{2\text{-}12}$ alkynyl, $C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryl, $C_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocycle, $C_{6\text{-}12}$ aralkyl or $C_{3\text{-}10}$ heteroaralkyl; and

R_{12} is ~~a hydroxyl protecting group~~ CO-$C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryl, CO-$C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkoxy, CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryloxy, or CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ arylalkyl,

said process comprising:

a) subjecting a compound of formula IV:



IV

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of enzyme, wherein said enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase, Candida Antarctica "B" lipase, Candida Lypolitica Lipase, or Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase; and

b) recovering said compound of formula III.

13. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is $C_{1\text{-}12}$ alkyl.

14. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is CO-$C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl~~, CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryl, CO-$C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkoxy, CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ aryloxy, or CO-$C_{6\text{-}12}$ arylalkyl~~.

15. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

16. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase.

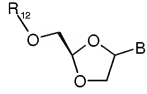
17. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "B" lipase.

18. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Lypolitica Lipase.

19. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase.

20. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 12, further comprising:

a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula III to produce a compound of formula VIII:

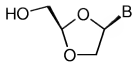


VIII

wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

b) removing group R_{12} of said compound of formula VIII;

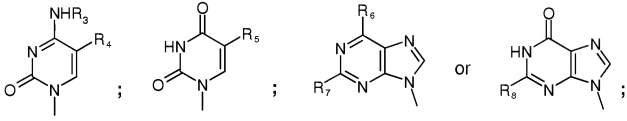
c) recovering a compound of formula IX:



IX

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein B is

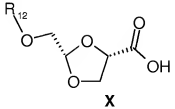


R_3 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} acyl and CO-R_9;

R_9 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently H, C_{1-6} alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkylamino.

22. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 20 ~~12~~, further comprising converting said compound of formula III to a compound of formula IV and recovering said compound of formula X:



X

23. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_{12} is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

24. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is methyl and R_{12} is benzoyl.